

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 SAM-01 EB-07 AID-05 COME-00

TRSE-00 IGA-01 OIC-02 /094 W
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R 201400Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7206

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, PFOR, JM, UK, XL

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER MANLEY ANNOUNCES OBJECTIVE OF
COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE IS
NEW ECONOMIC ORDER

REF: KINGSTON 785 (NOTAL)

1. SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, PM MANLEY ANNOUNCED THAT THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE TO TAKE THE FIRST STEPS TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW WORLD CONOMIC ORDER. AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE ACP-EEC AGREEMENT, AN EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO "DEVELOP A COMMONWEALTH CONSENSUS ABOUT THE POLITICAL MANAGEMENT OF WORLD ECONOMIC DEALINGS". THE 1973 OTTAWA COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE HAD AVOIDED CONFRONTATION, DEMONSTRATED THAT THE COMMONWEALTH COULD SURVIVE, AND SET THE STAGE FOR A NEW FOCUS ON WORLD ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

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2. BOTH HIS AND SENATOR THOMPSON'S CONTACTS WITH THE

OTHER HEADS OF GOVERNMENT HAD INDICATED THAT THE DOMINANT PROBLEMS IN THE WORLD WERE ECONOMIC. THE FREE TRADE SYSTEM ONLY WORKED TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THE DISADVANTAGE OF THE UNDERDEVELOPED, AND "THE ONLY WAY TO REVERSE THE PROCESS WAS TO INTRODUCE POLITICAL MANAGEMENT INTO ECONOMIC DEALINGS". MANLEY TRACED HIS THIRD WORLD ECONOMIC EFFORTS SINCE 1972, AND SAID THE CONFERENCE WAS BEING HELD IN KINGSTON BECAUSE OF THE IMPACT MADE BY THE CARIBBEAN AT OTTAWA AND BECAUSE OF CARIBBEAN RECOGNITION OF JAMAICAN LEADERSHIP. SPECIFIC SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED WERE TRADE, SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATURAL RESOURCES, CONDUCT OF MULTI-NATIONAL COMPANIES, REFORMING THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM, ETC.

3. THE CONFERENCE WAS EXPECTED TO COST THE GOJ J\$1.9 MILLION, COMPARED TO \$6 MILLION AT OTTAWA, AND \$2.1 MILLION AT SINGAPORE (1971). MANLEY SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE GOJ HAD DECIDED NOT TO COMPETE IN TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT BECAUSE "WE ARE A POOR THIRD WORLD COUNTRY", CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE ADEQUATE. THE QUEEN'S VISIT AT THE START OF THE CONFERENCE WOULD COST J\$10,000. THE KINGSTON CONFERENCE WOULD CONTINUE THE OTTAWA PRACTICE OF A WEEKEND BREAK (MAY 2-4) AND THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WOULD BE AT TRYALL WHILE THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD BE GUESTS OF THE JAMAICA HILTON. TO DATE, ATTENDANCE HAD BEEN CONFIRMED BY 25 OF THE 33 HEADS OF GOVERNMENT.

4. COMMENT: UK HIGH COMMISSIONER TOLD AMB THAT "BIG DADDY" IDI AMIN DEFINITELY NOT COMING WHICH WAS "REGRETTABLE SINCE IT WOULD LIVEN THINGS UP." HOWEVER, IT IS ALREADY OBVIOUS THAT JAMAICA'S PM IS GEARING UP FOR HIS ROLE AS SUPER MANLEY AND THIRD WORLD LEADER. THE CONFERENCE MAY NOT BE LIVELY, BUT IT WON'T LACK RHETORIC.
GERARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEFS OF STATE MEETINGS, PRESS CONFERENCES, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, PLANNING MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KINGST01095
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750098-0626
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750333/aaaabdgts.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 KINGSTON 785
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <07 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER MANLEY ANNOUNCES OBJECTIVE OF COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE IS
TAGS: ECIN, PFOR, OCON, JM, UK, XL, (MANLEY, MICHAEL N)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006